SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA THROUGH CLIMATE ACTION & LAND EQUITY (CALE) EVENT

Growing Connections in San Bernardino

- Thursday, April 17th
- 9:00am-1:00pm
- 36 attendees

At our second CALE Connections event attendees visited two farms in Redlands within San Bernardino County and talked through their successes, struggles, and history with the land. Following our farm tours, we connected with event attendees, explored opportunities outlined in a grower workbook, and networked over lunch at Old Grove Orange.

CONNECT WITH FARMERS FROM THE EVENT

- Steve & Michelle Pollard of Jehovah
- Jireh Mobile Farm - bibledays@aol.com
- Anna Knight at Old Grove Orange - anna.knight@oldgroveorange.com
    - Both farms are open to *opportunities that will support their team and operations*

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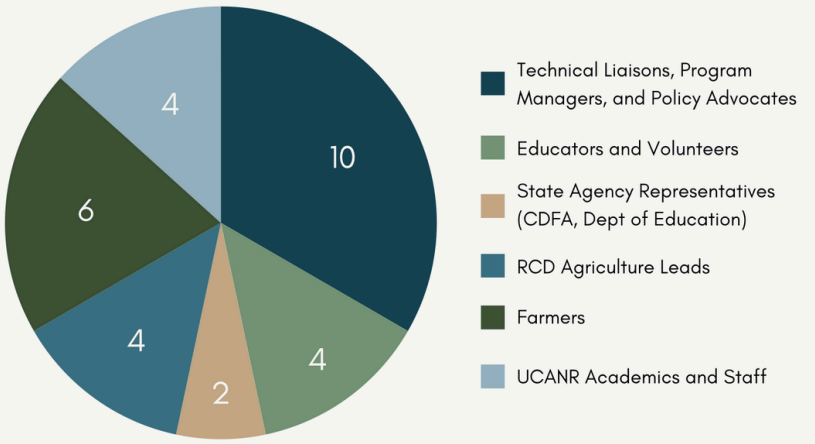
GROWING CONNECTIONS IN SAN BERNARDINO

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The two growers we visited did not face major land access issues, but struggle more with management, production, and distribution systems.
- Old Grove Orange uses agrotourism and youth outreach to build community engagement and increase farm visibility.
  - This is something that Jehovah Jireh Mobile Farm would like to grow into as well.
- Top crops: citrus, avocados, corn, and strawberries.

ATTENDEES

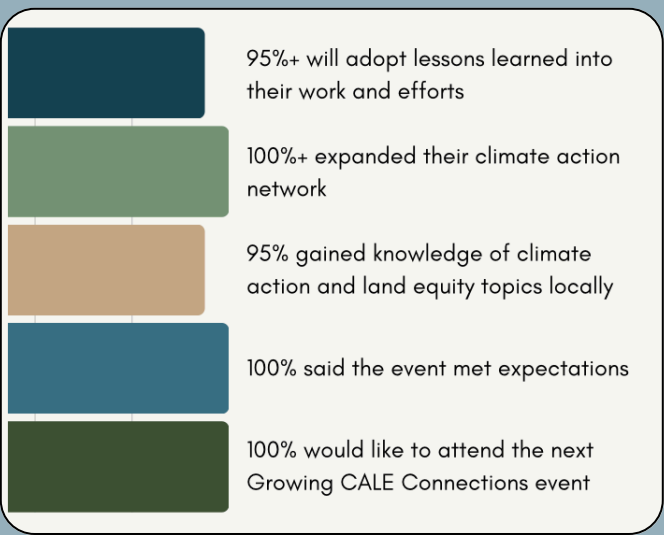


CHALLENGES

- Additiional support needed with buying and maintaining equipment and resources.
- Growers need more support with larger pest managment - donkeys are a local issue.
- Land tenure leases span up to 5 years but do not provide enough long-term stability.
- County-level policies often prioritize infrastructure and development over agriculture, overlooking its role as a community need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Incentivize land match** and succession programs statewide (i.e. offer an open & no-cost platform for landholders and land seekers)
- **Recognize agriculture as essential infrastructure** in county planning to secure long-term viability of urban-edge and peri-urban farms.
- **Incentivize local governments** to integrate small farms and agrotourism into economic development plans.
- **Support farmer training** and technical assistance focused on distribution, business development, and marketing.



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